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March 14, 2013

His Excellency Ehud Barak
Minister of Defense of Israel
c/o The Honorable David Siegel
Consul General of Israel
11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1600
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the board of directors of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, and in particular with the recommendation of our board member Stanley Gold, it is my great honor to extend an invitation to you to address the Council at your earliest convenience. The US-Israel alliance is fundamental to the future of the entire Middle East, and at this fluid period in the region we would be very interested to hear your views on the situation in Israel and in the surrounding area. With chaos in Syria, the continuing nuclear program in Iran, and the overall uncertainty surrounding the "Arab Spring" revolts, American interest in your neighborhood is very strong.

You addressed the LA World Affairs Council in 1998, and you had been scheduled to speak to the Council again in April 2011, but were forced to cancel the engagement at short notice because of a domestic security issue. We completely understand how current events can interfere with the best-laid plans, and would be very grateful if you would now consider our renewed invitation for you to talk.

The Los Angeles World Affairs Council is a non-partisan organization that was founded 60 years ago with the aim of engaging Americans with the outside world. Our board and members are drawn from the corporate, civic and cultural leadership of Los Angeles, America's second largest city. The Council's speaker list over six decades reads as a veritable "Who's Who" of international affairs, with eight US presidents and more than 250 foreign heads of state and government – including five Israeli prime ministers.

We would be delighted if you were able to find time to talk to us, and assure you that the Los Angeles World Affairs Council would be greatly honored by your acceptance.

Yours sincerely,

Terry McCarthy
President & CEO
Los Angeles World Affairs Council

Cc: Stanley Gold, President & CEO of Shamrock Holdings
Board member of Los Angeles World Affairs Council